

## Vision Unveils Tough New Protections for Vancouver Renters

Written by

Thursday, 27 March 2008 14:07 - Last Updated Thursday, 27 March 2008 14:07

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**Vision** - Media Release - The Vision Vancouver motion, released today, calls for the City to develop several policies to protect rental housing, help increase community participation in development projects, and provide access to rental information. The Vision policies include:

- *An anti-vacancy by-law, which would increase the levels of taxation on vacant properties being held for the purposes of speculation;*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Release

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VISION UNVEILS TOUGH NEW PROTECTIONS FOR VANCOUVER RENTERS

While Ladner and Sullivan sling mud, Vision brings ideas

(VANCOUVER) Vision Vancouver announced today a series of new policy proposals to help protect Vancouver renters, which if passed would be among the toughest regulations to protect renters in Canada.

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"Vancouver has a huge renter population, and for the past two and a half years they've been ignored by the NPA," said Vision Vancouver Councillor Tim Stevenson. "That's why Vision Vancouver is introducing a package of tough new measures to help protect rental housing, which would be among the toughest in Canada."

"We need to be pulling out all the stops to protect our renter population, because it's time Vancouver gained a reputation of being renter friendly."

The Vision Vancouver motion, released today, calls for the City to develop several policies to protect rental housing, help increase community participation in development projects, and provide access to rental information. The Vision policies include:

- *An anti-vacancy by-law, which would increase the levels of taxation on vacant properties being held for the purposes of speculation;*
  
- The consideration of past compliance with building standards and owner history when granting new development permits;
  
- A publicly accessible database to monitor evictions throughout the city as well as conversions to student housing, and would provide a list of buildings protected under the SRA regulations; and
  
- A downtown eastside planning office, whose sole responsibility would be to inform local residents of planned developments, and facilitate meaningful community participation in neighbourhood development.

The Vision motion also calls for a number of policy changes to be made by the provincial government to protect renters, including the re-establishment of a Rental Tenancy Office in the West End of Vancouver, and to lengthen the time of notice given for evictions from 60 to 90 days.

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"The NPA have had their heads in the sand for the past few years, as our renters find their rents getting jacked up, their homes being converted, and negligent landlords getting around the rules," said Councillor Stevenson. "Sam Sullivan and Peter Ladner are so busy fighting each other that they can't deal with the problems our city faces."

"Vision's rental housing policies are a strong step towards making our city safe and secure for renters across the City."

*For more information, please contact: Councillor Tim Stevenson 604.375.8874*